

REMARKS

This is in response to an Office Action mailed on February 13, 2008. Claims 1-24 were pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all claims. With this amendment, claims 1, 6, and 11 are amended, claims 18-24 are canceled, and the remaining claims are unchanged in the application.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 16, 18, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Lisle et al., US Patent No. 4,843,389. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Of the rejected claims, claims 1, 6 and 11 are independent claims.

The present system deals with performing linguistic sorting of symbols (such as alphabetizing symbols) using a computer system. In performing this type of linguistic sorting, the present system uses a compression table that lists the compression type for various compressions used in sorting. For purposes of the present specification, the term “compression” means a sort element which is “a special grouping of linguistic symbols that is to be treated as one unit for linguistic sorting purposes...as an example, the combination of ‘DZS’ in Hungarian is a compression or sort element that is expected by a Hungarian speaker to be sorted between the letters ‘D’ and ‘E’”. See present application, paragraph 17.

Further, a “compression type” of a given compression “means the number of symbols in a given compression. For instance, the compression type of the compression “DZS” is 3-2-1.” See present specification, paragraph 17. The present specification also specifically distinguishes the term “compression” from data size reduction, as it is used in other technology areas. See the present specification, paragraph 4.

Lisle neither teaches nor suggests even the notion of a compression or a compression type. Lisle does discuss collating characters in alphabetical order. However, Lisle neither teaches nor suggests the notion of a compression, in which a plurality of different linguistic symbols are grouped together to form a single sort unit, or a compression table that identifies the compression type (the number of symbols in a given compression). This is completely missing from the Lisle reference. Instead, when Lisle mentions the term

“compression” it is expressly speaking of data size reduction, from which the present claims have been expressly distinguished in the present application.

In order to further clarify this distinction, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to read “a plurality of compression tables, each compression table pertaining to one of the supported languages and having a compression type identifying a number of symbols in a given compression and containing compression of symbols of that compression type, each compression being a grouping of two or more symbols treated as a single unit for purposes of linguistic sorting...”. This is simply neither taught nor suggested, nor even mentioned, in the Lisle reference. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present claims cannot be anticipated by the Lisle reference.

Similar clarifying amendments to those made in claim 1 have been made in claims 6 and 11. Of course, claim 6 is drawn to a method of building a symbol table, instead of to a computer readable medium as set out in claim 1. Further, claim 11 is drawn to a computer readable medium having instructions for performing steps to carry out linguistic sorting. Therefore, both claims 6 and 11 are different from claim 1, and are independently patentable for their own reasons. However, to further clarify the distinction from the prior art, amendments similar to those found in claim 1 have been made to claims 6 and 11 as well.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 6 and 11 are allowable over the references cited by the Examiner. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-17, which depend from the independent claims, are allowable as well. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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